

## REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 11, 13 and 15-19 are pending in the present application.

### **Rejection of claims 2-5, 11, 13 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)**

Claims 2-5, 11, 13, and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Blonder et al. (US 5,048,908).

The Examiner states that Figure 3 of Blonder et al. shows a fiber “comprising a twist separating the fiber into a plurality of sections, and wherein the twist is formed by heating the fiber.” Applicants assert that Blonder et al. discloses only a fiber that is cleaved, resulting in a tilted fiber endface, not a fiber with a twist formed by heating a length of optical fiber. For example, Blonder et al states only that the “**cleaving tool is ... heated,**” and does **not** include disclosure or suggestion of heating a length of fiber, as recited in the instant claims 2-5, and 11. See Blonder et al. col. 3. ll. 56-57.

Further, Blonder et al. discloses only rotating a collet, not a fiber, through an angle  $\theta$ . Rotating the collet of Blonder et al. by  $\theta=90^\circ$ , results in a **fiber twist of about  $9^\circ$** , not  $90^\circ$ . See Blonder et al. col. 3 l. 47; col. 4 l. 8. Blonder et al. does not include any disclosure or suggestion of a fiber with a twist at an angle between respective ends of adjacent sections substantially equal to  $90^\circ$  or the formation of such a fiber twist by heating the fiber, as claimed in the instant claims 15-19. Because Blonder et al. does not teach or suggest each and every element of claims, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

## CONCLUSION

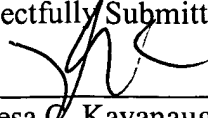
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-832-1000. Should a further extension of time be required other than provided for, Applicant hereby petitions for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely

consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account, No. 06-1448, Reference KVC-038.01.

Date: March 13, 2006

***Customer No: 25181***  
Patent Group  
Foley Hoag LLP  
155 Seaport Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02210-2600

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Theresa C. Kavanaugh  
Reg. No. 50,356  
Agent for Applicants